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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 17 APR 50

SUBJECT Caustic Soda Requirements for 1950

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1. Russian Zone caustic soda requirements for 1950 will amount to 260,000 tons of which 180,000 are intended for cellulose-wood production and 80,000 tons for the chemical industry.
2. Production capacity in the Zone is as follows:

a. Ostermienburg	:	12,000 tons
b. Westeregeln (D58)	:	12,000 "
c. Ammendorf (D92)	:	5,000 "
d. Bitterfeld (SAG)	:	48,000 "
e. Wolfen (SAG)	:	48,000 "
Total		125,000 tons
3. Apart from this, work is being carried out at the chemical factory at Radebeul, formerly von Heyden, on the building of a caustic-soda installation which should be operating by the beginning of March 1950. It is expected to have a yearly production of 7,000 tons.
4. Full production at these factories will only be possible if considerably more quicksilver and materials for repairs become available. In this connection, the chemistry department of the Ministry for Industry has been allocated 1,000,000 DM (West, sic) to be spent principally on repair work and also on raw materials such as dyestuffs and pigments.
5. Russian officials have been urging the chemistry department to make every effort to obtain caustic soda from Western Germany and to approach West Berlin merchants for this purpose. At the same time, the Russians have sanctioned a barter agreement whereby the Russian Zone will receive 7,000 tons of caustic soda in return for potash salt.

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